

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system with at least one server device and a plurality of client devices communicating content to and from the at least one server device via a network, the system comprising a processor programmed for receiving content from at least one of the plurality of client devices and transmitting the content to at least one other of the client devices according to a preferred reception mode directly communicated from the at least one other of the client devices to the at least one server device.

2. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one other of the client devices comprises a plurality of other client devices and wherein the content is broadcasted by the at least one server device to the plurality of other client devices.

3. The system recited in claim 2, wherein the content is broadcasted by facsimile to the plurality of other client devices.

4. The system recited in claim 2, wherein the content is broadcasted by electronic mail to the plurality of other client devices.

5. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the preferred reception mode comprises at least one of receiving the content by facsimile and receiving the content by electronic mail.

6. The system recited in claim 5, wherein receiving the content by electronic mail further comprises automatically printing the received content.

7. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the preferred reception mode indicates a preferred content reception device associated with the at least one other of the client devices, the preferred content reception device for converting the content to a user perceptible form.

8. The system recited in claim 7, wherein the preferred content reception device is at least one of a facsimile machine, a facsimile printer, and a processing device.

9. The system recited in claim 8, wherein the processing device runs at least one of a facsimile application for receiving the content and an electronic mail application for receiving the content.

10. The system recited in claim 7, wherein the preferred reception mode further indicates at least one content provider designated to provide the content to the at least one other of the client devices.

11. The system recited in claim 7, wherein the preferred reception mode further indicates that the content should not be provided to the at least one other of the client devices.

12. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the processor is further programmed for implementing a lockdown mode wherein the preferred reception mode communicated from the at least one other of the client devices can only be altered after an information receiver verification process.

13. The system recited in claim 12, wherein the information receiver verification process comprises verifying an Automatic Number Identification (ANI) associated with the at least one other of the client devices.

14. A system for selecting a preferred mode for receiving content, the system comprising:
- at least one first client device adapted for transmitting content;
 - at least one second client device adapted for receiving the content; and
 - at least one server device adapted for receiving the content transmitted from the at least one first client device and re-transmitting the content to the at least one second client device according to a preferred reception mode directly communicated from the at least one second client device to the at least one server device.

15. The system recited in claim 14, wherein the preferred reception mode indicates a preferred content reception device for converting the content to a user perceptible form.

16. The system recited in claim 15, wherein the preferred content reception device is coupled to the at least one second client device.

17. The system recited in claim 15, wherein the preferred content reception device is at least one of a facsimile machine, a facsimile printer, and a processing device.

18. The system recited in claim 17, wherein the processing device runs at least one of a facsimile application for receiving the content and an electronic mail application for receiving the content.

19. The system recited in claim 14:
wherein the at least one second client device comprises a plurality of second client devices adapted to receive content; and
wherein the at least one server device broadcasts the content received from the at least one first client device to the plurality of second client devices according to a preferred reception mode communicated directly to the at least one server device by each of the plurality of second client devices.
20. The system recited in claim 14, wherein the at least one first client device is adapted for transmitting content over a network.
21. The system recited in claim 20, wherein the network is the Internet.
22. The system recited in claim 14, wherein the at least one second client device is adapted for receiving content over a network.
23. The system recited in claim 22, wherein the network is the Internet.
24. The system recited in claim 14, wherein the at least one server device is adapted for providing a webpage for accepting the content from the at least one first client device.
25. The system recited in claim 14, wherein the content comprises a formatted document.

26. The system recited in claim 14, wherein the at least one server device is adapted for receiving a listing of information associated with a plurality of second client devices adapted for receiving the content according to a preferred reception mode directly communicated from the at least one second client device to the at least one server device.

27. The system recited in claim 26, wherein the listing is a database file.

28. The system recited in claim 26, wherein the information comprises at least one of a first name, a last name, a facsimile number, a telephone number and an electronic mail address.

29. The system recited in claim 26, wherein the at least one server device is adapted for providing a webpage for accepting the listing.

30. A system for selecting a preferred device for receiving content, the system comprising:
at least one first client device adapted for transmitting content;
at least one second client device associated with a plurality of content reception devices; and
at least one server device adapted for receiving the content transmitted from the at least one first client device and re-transmitting the content to the at least one second client device according to a preferred content reception device selection directly communicated from the at least one second client device to the at least one server device such that at least one selected content reception device converts the content to a user perceptible form.

31. The system recited in claim 30, wherein at least one of the plurality of content reception devices is coupled to the at least one second client device.

32. The system recited in claim 31, wherein the plurality of content reception devices comprise at least one of a facsimile machine, a facsimile printer, and a processing device.

33. The system recited in claim 32, wherein the processing device runs at least one of a facsimile application for receiving the content and an electronic mail application for receiving the content.

34. A method for selecting a preferred mode for receiving content, the method comprising:
providing at least one server device for communicating content to and from a plurality of client devices;
receiving content from at least one content provider; and
transmitting the content to at least one of the client devices according to a preferred reception mode directly communicated from the at least one of the client devices to the at least one server device.

35. The method recited in claim 34, wherein the at least one of the client devices comprises a plurality of client devices and wherein the content is broadcasted by the at least one server device to the plurality of client devices.

36. The method recited in claim 35, wherein the content is broadcasted by facsimile to the plurality of client devices.

37. The method recited in claim 35, wherein the content is broadcasted by electronic mail to the plurality of client devices.

38. The method recited in claim 34, wherein the preferred reception mode comprises at least one of receiving the content by facsimile and receiving the content by electronic mail.

39. The method recited in claim 34, wherein the preferred reception mode indicates a preferred content reception device associated with the at least one of the client devices, the preferred content reception device for converting the content to a user perceptible form.

40. A method for providing to an information receiver content received from information providers, the method comprising:
providing at least one server device for receiving the content from the information providers and for transmitting the content to at least one first client device associated with the information receiver; and
providing a user interface accessible to the at least one first client device, the user interface including user-selectable operators for enabling the information receiver to select a preferred reception mode, the preferred reception mode indicating a preferred content reception device associated with the at least one first client device, the preferred content reception device for converting the content to a user perceptible form.

41. The method recited in claim 40, wherein providing at least one server device for receiving the content from the information providers comprises programming the at least one server device for receiving the content from at least one second client device in communication with the at least one server device, the at least one second client device being associated with the information providers.

42. The method recited in claim 40, wherein providing a user interface accessible to the at least one first client device comprises providing a webpage accessible to the at least one first client device over the Internet.

43. The method recited in claim 40, wherein the user interface enables the information receiver to select the preferred reception mode during a process for registering the information receiver.

44. The method recited in claim 40, wherein the user interface enables the information providers to upload the content to the at least one server device.

45. The method recited in claim 40, wherein the user interface enables the information providers to upload a listing of information receivers to the at least one server device.

46. A billing method for an information broadcaster, the information broadcaster broadcasting, for a fee, to a plurality of client devices associated with a corresponding plurality of information receivers content received from information providers, the method comprising:

providing a user interface accessible to the information receivers, the user interface enabling an information receiver to specify that a client device associated with the information receiver be in a non-reception mode;

broadcasting the content only to ones of the plurality of client devices that are not in a non-reception mode; and

receiving a fee from the information providers that is proportionate to a number of client devices to which the content was broadcasted.

47. A method for securely identifying an individual, comprising:
receiving identification information of a first individual during a first communication session, wherein the identified individual has a first communication device having an Automatic Number Identification (ANI);
verifying, during a second communication session, that an unknown individual claiming to be the first individual is the actual first individual by detecting an Automatic Number Identification (ANI) of an unknown communication device used by the unknown individual during the second communication session and associating and comparing the detected Automatic Number Identification (ANI) with identification information received during the first communication session.

48. The method recited in claim 47, further comprising storing the received identification information of the first individual and the Automatic Number Identification (ANI) of the first communication device in association with one another.

49. The method recited in claim 47, wherein the first communication device is a facsimile machine.

50. The method recited in claim 47, wherein the first communication device is a telephones.

51. The method recited in claim 47, wherein the ANI of the first communication device corresponds to a telephone line number on which a facsimile machine is connected.

52. The method recited in claim 47, the ANI of the first communication device corresponds to a telephone line number on which a telephone is connected.

53. A method for communicating information to an information receiver's computer system, comprising:

- receiving registration information for an information receiver, the registration information including a telephone number for a facsimile machine accessible by the information receiver;
- providing displayable content through a network to the information receiver for displaying a consent letter or agreement on the information receiver's computer system;
- receiving, through the network, an indication of consent from the information receiver; and
- controlling further facsimile communications to the information receiver, based on the indication of consent received from the information receiver.

54. The method recited in claim 53, wherein the registration information comprises identification information that identifies at least one information provider and wherein the consent letter or agreement specifies that the information receiver consents to receiving information from the at least one identified information provider.

55. The method recited in claim 54, wherein controlling further facsimile communications comprises avoiding sending an information provider's advertisement communications by facsimile transmission to the information receiver unless an indication of consent has been received from the information receiver for the information provider.

56. The method recited in claim 53, wherein receiving an indication of consent comprises receiving an electronic signature for the consent letter or agreement.